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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1952

SUBJECT New Oil Field near Akhalsheni

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1. Location:

The new oil field near Akhalsheni (41°37'N/41°43'E) starts 4 km north of Akhalsheni at a paved road and extends along this road for about 12 km in a width of 3 km. This oil field was generally designated as new field by the PW's employed in the Batum (41°30'N/41°30'E) district. The access road was still under construction. During the time of observation there was a field railroad connection with the main railroad line.

2. Plant installations:

a. The oil field was presumably opened in the last days of the war as the implements and boring units were mostly of American make. Hundreds of derricks (predominantly steel structures), most of them 30 to 100 meters high, are on the oil field. The deposits occur in horizons at a depth of about 600 to 900 meters. The drilling and producing implements are electrically operated. The power units are driven by stationary Diesel engines distributed over the entire field.

b. Power is supplied by the Batum Power Plant. The crude oil is pumped through 25 to 30 cm diameter feed pipe lines from the drilling and producing derricks (all provided with pumping devices) across the oil field to main pipelines 50 to 60 cm in diameter embedded in ditches and leading to a large tank depot. During the time of observation the construction of large machine shops and workshops for the technical equipment on the oil field was planned. However, the construction of

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a refinery was obviously not yet scheduled.

c. The tank depot is close to the shores of the Black Sea and has spur tracks to Batum. The tanks are set up in three rows extending 4 km to the north in a width of 150 to 200 meters. All tanks are connected with the main pipe lines. The dimensions of the tanks differed and varied between 100 and 200 meters in length, 5 and 6 meters in width and between 10 and 12 meters in height. The tanks are made of concrete and have camouflage paint. The walls are about 20 cm thick.

d. The oil is pumped from the tank depot into tank cars. The oil trains go as far as the Batum freight station or Batum oil harbor. All trains are pulled by electric locomotives. It is a single track line. Therefore not more than three oil trains could be loaded and dispatched in one day.

3. Production :

No details are available on the amount of production. The daily output was presumably 3,500 to 4,000 tons. (Three oil trains, each of 25 to 30 tank cars). Producing installations and pipe lines were at least doubled since 1946. New drillings were made and new derricks set up daily. [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] all drillings proved to be successful and more productive than originally expected.

4. Work force :

25X1 During the time [redacted] about 3,000 Russ and 1,500 Soviets worked in the field in three shifts. The number of Soviet workmen was steadily growing. New workers' settlements were built at the border of the field.

5. Security :

The entire area is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and is strictly guarded.

1 Annex : New Oil Field near Akhalsheni (Batum District).

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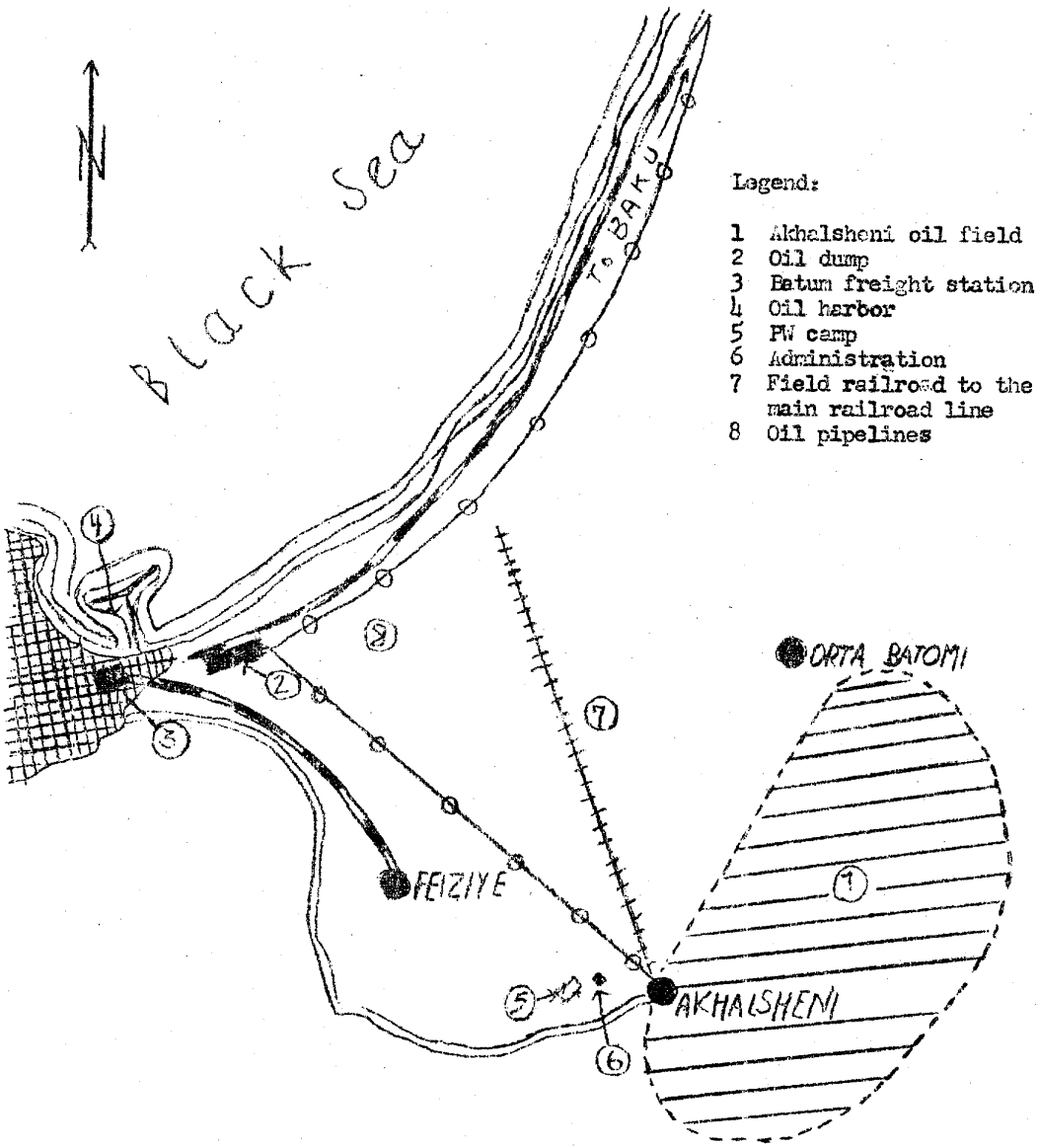
Attachment

New Oil Field near Akhalsheni (Batum District)




Legend:

1 Akhalsheni oil field
2 Oil dump
3 Batum freight station
4 Oil harbor
5 PW camp
6 Administration
7 Field railroad to the main railroad line
8 Oil pipelines

not to scale

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